

illume

FALL 2024 • UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

"We were up to our elbows in boxes."

On the Grow

15

"None of this was the direction I saw for my life..."

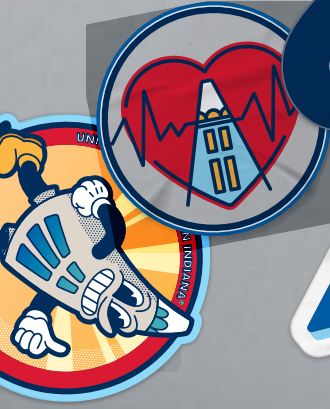
Imagine All the People

22

40

Cool Things We LOVE About USI

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA



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On the Cover: Stickers on a laptop. Ubiquitous signs of college life.



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Illume

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The New Look

THIS ISSUE MARKS an evolution for *Illume* magazine. When we first rolled out the redesign in 2016, it sported a new name, size, font, format and lots of new content. This latest refresh keeps the things readers said they loved, under some new names, while repackaging it all in a new size and with a fresh look. Our survey of readers collected 500+ responses to 10 questions focusing on likes, dislikes,

what you want more or less of, reasons for reading *Illume* and thoughts on the covers. Not every idea was doable, but every comment was considered. One of the more common responses dealt with cost-saving measures. The biggest cost drivers are paper and postage. We spoke to printers about steps we could take to reduce both and came up with a plan while maintaining the mission and goals of this publication: to showcase unique USI stories packaged to appeal to a variety of readers and hold its own on any newsstand. Hearing from colleagues who tell me their copy was delivered to neighbors by mistake who then read it cover to cover before returning it, tells me we are reaching our goals.

We hope you enjoy the refreshed look and feel of *Illume*.

C. L. Stambush
Editor

Upping the Ante

\$5 MILLION The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—awarded USI's Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program to **continue studying aging**.

\$1 MILLION Lilly Endowment awarded a grant funding a **new Literacy Center**. The Center broadens experiences in reading instruction for teacher education students.

\$1.4 MILLION The HRSA awarded USI's Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center to continue the **Indiana SANE Training Project**, increasing the number of forensic nurses to collect evidence in sexual assault examinations.



PACE & PICASSO

BEFORE STEPHEN PACE (1918-2010) became a noted American Abstract Expressionist (who received his first formal art training in Evansville as a young man when his family resided in New Harmony), he was a soldier stationed in Paris, France, at the end of World War II in 1944. While awaiting transportation back to the states, he continued to paint and explore the famed city. One day, while painting near the river, Pace met American expatriate and art collector Gertrude Stein, who offered to introduce him to Pablo Picasso (1881-1973). The young Pace visited Picasso in his studio and the master invited him to a party he was hosting, and they became friends.

This summer, the two artists were metaphorically reunited when their respective works were displayed at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science—Picasso part of their permanent collection and Pace in a special exhibit "Stephen Pace in Indiana." The show presented art from the 267 pieces Pace donated to the University's collection, containing 4,575 historically significant artworks and artifacts representing many art movements.

Pace is a namesake of USI's art gallery: McCutchan Art Center and Pace Galleries.



Happy, Hairy Faces

USI IS AN inclusive campus. So, it was only natural Alumni Engagement and Volunteer USI decided to celebrate alumni pooches by making the month of July, Dog Days of Summer.

The goal was to get alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and introduce their furry friends to USI's beautiful campus and trails. "The promotion increased social media engagement and welcomed a new group of ambassadors to the USI family," said Maggie Carnahan '13 M'18, Director of Alumni Engagement and Volunteer USI. USI alumni who participated, by coming to campus and posting a photo of themselves with their pets, received a USI pet bandana and a package of Earthborn Holistic EarthBites Chewy Treats (complements of Earthborn) for their four-legged friend to enjoy.



DREAMS DO COME TRUE

GRACIE MADISON '25, marketing and public relations, loved going to the Indianapolis 500 as a child. Not for the fast cars so much, but to see the 500 Festival Princesses. Fast forward, now a marketing, public relations and advertising major, she was one of 33 young women across the state chosen for the 2024 Indianapolis 500 Festival Princess Program.

"I felt confident in my application and interviews, but there were lots of very impressive women in the running," said Madison, noting



the honor came with a \$1,000 scholarship. She credits USI and the Romain College of Business for preparing her for the opportunity. From studying abroad in Spain to traveling to conferences with USI's American Marketing Association chapter, all those experiences helped put her on her career path.

"I wouldn't be half the individual or future employee I am without the skills I gained from these opportunities. My interview skills,

my networking, my interpersonal communication, my adaptability and my organizational skills are all attributed to my time here," Madison said. "The people and opportunities here are truly one of a kind."

The experience has helped Madison grow personally and professionally, giving her the chance to network in various career fields and learn an abundance about community relations and how to plan for outreach events.



All Abuzz

THE POLLINATORS ARE COMING.

An affiliation with the Bee Campus USA program, initiated by biology major Nolan Durham through a \$2,500 USI Endeavor Grant, puts our campus on the map with other cities and campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators. "I am interested in this project since the entirety of its breadth is what I envision a career for myself looking like," says Durham. "I want to be a wildlife biologist, and it's my dream to be a proponent of the issue of climate change."

An apiary is planned for a sunny hillside on the eastern part of campus with hives and bees to be installed in Spring 2025.

"This designation makes our campus a living laboratory for conservation studies and provides unlimited student research opportunities. It has already fostered collaboration across disciplines, with other institutions of higher learning and our broader community," said Dr. Edith Hardcastle, Associate Professor of Biology.

LEVELING THE FIELD



USI PARTNERED

WITH the Evansville

Regional Economic

Partnership and the

University of Evansville

to co-create the Supplier

Development Program. This

groundbreaking program is

designed for people of color and

women who own businesses, aiming

to strategically position them for

success in securing procurement

contracts from prominent

companies in the Evansville region

and expand their business presence.

Classes covered a variety of areas

such as marketing strategies,

operating plans, business plans and

how to manage growth.

Curtain Time at USI Theatre

AS YOU LIKE IT NOV 21-24	THE TAMING FEB 20-22
35MM: A MUSICAL EXHIBITION FEB 6-8	PIPPIN: THE MUSICAL APRIL 10-13

Call 812-465-7110 or purchase online at USI.edu/theatre-tickets.

Bridging Worlds

USI ENGINEERS IN ACTION (EIA) chapter did it again—built their fourth footbridge—this one in Lubombo, Eswatini, in South Africa. Like the other, it connects isolated communities to shops, churches, health clinics and more. The bridge is the largest pedestrian footbridge built and led by USI's chapter in collaboration with teams from the University of Iowa and Eastern Mennonite University. It spans 106.05 meters (about the length of a football field) and took almost two months to build. The lives of over 4,000 residents and more than 1,800 children have been positively impacted by the project. Watch this fantastic video demonstrating the teams' work.



WATCH VIDEO



ANOTHER DOCTORATE OFFERING

THE NEWLY NAMED Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions has added a third doctoral program: Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program.

USI is the only state-supported institution in southern Indiana offering a doctorate in occupational therapy; it began accepting applications on October 1, 2024, for Fall 2025. "The OTD program will equip students with the critical skills and expertise necessary to make meaningful contributions to the field of occupational therapy, elevating their ability to meet the evolving healthcare needs of our communities," said Dr. Julie McCullough, Dean of the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Doctor of
Occupational Therapy





MORE NEW MAJORS, MINORS, CERTIFICATES

Supply Chain Management, MBA concentration

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Latin American Studies, minor

Business Humanities, minor

Medical Humanities, minor

Financial Institution Certificate



Focusing on First Generations

USI CONTINUES TO ensure students have the resources and support needed to be successful at the University. The creation of Pathways to USI Program, now in its second year, focuses on historically underserved populations—first-generation students, PELL Grant eligible students, 21st Century Scholars and students from rural areas—providing them with holistic services and support to meet their needs, beginning as early as middle school through

post-graduation from USI. The program seeks to build confidence, leadership and social skills in students while keeping them academically on track.

During the seven-week summer program, students participate in college-level courses focusing on math, reading and writing skills while gaining the foundational knowledge necessary to navigate college life. Students will embark on several trips and participate in a series of workshops and professional development opportunities.

ARCHIE'S ARMY REWARDS APP



THE NEW ARCHIE'S ARMY

REWARDS app provides fans with the opportunity to enjoy more than an awesome athletic event. Now, going to events will earn you points for attending that could be used to redeem gear, prizes and once-in-a-lifetime experiences with coaches—such as upgraded seats during a game, dinner with one of the head coaches, a signed autograph and more.

Student Success Continues Under a New Name



WHILE THE GRANT for USI's Center for Adult Learner Success (CALs) ended in June, the University's commitment to working adults with dependents or who have been out of college for more than two years and want an undergraduate or graduate degree, did not.

To continue serving this group of students, CALs and Online Learning joined forces and are now the Online and Adult Learning Department. "There's a lot of symbiosis and crossover between online and adult learning because online is the primary modality that adult learners are seeking," said Dr. Michael Dixon, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

USI Adult Learners Taking Online Courses



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

GOVERNOR ERIC HOLCOMB appointed new Trustees to USI's Board of Trustees – President of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, Inc. Tim Hollander and USI alumnus Wayne Kinney '77, owner of JWK Management Group in Evansville. Holcomb also appointed Samantha Fleischaker '26, a USI political science and philosophy major, to a two-year term as the Student Member of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy and holds a 3.9 cumulative GPA.



DR. GARY SMALL

17 Years & Counting

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA and SWIRCA and More, a local agency on aging, presented the 17th annual Mid-America Institute on Aging and Wellness (MAIA) on campus in August.

Keynote speaker Dr. Gary Small is an internationally renowned psychiatrist and neuroscientist and expert on brain aging, Alzheimer's disease and dementia prevention.

STUDENT-ATHLETES ON THE ROAD

USI'S ATHLETIC TEAMS are sporting a flashy new look on the road. The chartered Timi's Tours bus has been wrapped in USI's colors of red, white and blue that shout our Screaming Eagles' pride.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Reflecting on the Path Forward

THE FALL SEMESTER offers a fresh start and a time of growth in knowledge and relationships. It is the start of an incredibly special time on campus.

My initial arrival to the USI campus in the fall of 1986 as a student was wrapped in anticipation and some anxiousness. As a first-generation student with parents who farmed and earned high school-level educations, I had to navigate through the higher education process on my own. I knew I found a home at USI and was ready, but had to determine the best path to achieve my goals.

Three years later, my transition to a new USI employee rekindled the same feelings I experienced as a new student: anticipation mixed with anxiousness. Work was not new to me, I worked 32 hours a week throughout my college career at Sureway Foods, a grocery store in Henderson, Kentucky. However, when stepping into my first professional role at USI, I felt something shift inside me. My connection to USI, and sense of responsibility for the students who would follow the path I once did, deepened.



During my 35 years at USI, in each of the roles I've fulfilled, including the most recent, Vice President for Finance and Administration, making a positive difference has always been my focus, something I've embraced from our early campus leaders. Like them, I start with what is right, put students first, take the blame, share the glory and use humor as a tool to relieve stress in myself and others. These were all bits of wisdom imparted to me by our founding president, vice presidents and treasurers: Dr. David Rice, Byron Wright, Richard Schmidt, Michael Whipple '75 and Dr. Linda Bennett, our third President, as well as too many more to name here. While I walked among these and other giants daily, they always made me feel essential. This gift of their leadership may have been their greatest lesson.

In the leadership role of President, I will remain true to the values essential to USI's historic fabric. I am excited to create the same student success I enjoyed as a student—whose expectations were surpassed—for those joining us now and in the future. Tradition has always been important to me and has only been further instilled in me here. At the University of Southern Indiana, our world is tradition-driven but forward-looking.

Have a great fall, visit us frequently, talk about USI often and trust we are working to advance your institution, your home, that has made a difference in so many lives.

Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95
Interim President

Presidential Priorities

MISSION Continuing our core mission as an engaged learning community, committed to exceptional education while maintaining affordability for our students, is what we do best and have always done. We will continue to do so.

ENROLLMENT & RETENTION Our long-established, strong fiscal position depends on the number of enrolled and retained students each semester. We will continue to work to grow our campus and online populations. All of you can help by sharing your confidence in USI as the University of choice and by telling prospective students about your firsthand experience.

RELATIONSHIPS Building strategic connections with all government leaders is central to USI's successful future. This is a state budget year, and I will be asking for the resources we need. I will be telling our story—which is your story—and why state legislators need to invest in USI.

ECONOMICS USI is a prime driver of economic development and an engine for creating an educated workforce in this community and beyond. The University exists because business leaders in the 1960s saw a need for quality public higher education here. We have delivered on their vision and will continue to pay it forward through the resources we provide, including through an alumni body of more than 54,000 strong.

VISIBILITY Our commitment to Division I athletics has elevated USI's name and reputation as it participates in its third year of the required four-year transition into full membership. We attracted national notice last season as Women's Basketball took the titles of Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) regular season and tournament champions, championship, and again this year as both the Men's and Women's Cross Country teams both won OVC Championships. Across USI Athletics, our student-athletes earned, for the second year in a row, the OVC Institutional Achievement Award for academics. This conference award is presented to the university with the greatest percentage of eligible student athletes with a 3.25 grade point average or higher. Go Screaming Eagles!

Unsung Heroes

The Scoring Crew

By Barbara Goodwin

TOGETHER, THEY HAVE more than 100 years of recording statistics, running the clock, keeping score, announcing for events and more, but the one thing they do not do is watch the sporting events simply for enjoyment. This scoring crew is here so the fans can have a richer experience. They are the key to successful operations of every match or game that happens at USI. They do it both for the love of USI and Ray Simmons, Director of Athletic Communication, for whom they all say is a big reason they show up. Each of them echoed in some way this sentiment: "I don't think I would do it if it wasn't for Ray. He treats us very well."

ZANE CLODFELTER '13, journalism, is the Sports Editor at the *Spencer County Journal-Democrat* and a regional contributing editor for the Paxton Media Group. While he is the Public Address Announcer for the Evansville Otters and other sporting events, his heart is with USI. "The 2019 Division II Elite Eight and national semifinal was the most exciting moment for me [in this role]. I was hired by the NCAA to work those games, so I had to be neutral. I was wearing an NCAA jacket that they gave me. But under the jacket, I wore my little USI pin."

SARA LOETE '11 M'23, history, social science (teaching), educational leadership (EdS) is the Assistant Principal at Harrison High School. She's a former designated hitter for USI Softball and she records event statistics. "[The events can be really exciting], but something that really stands out for me is when I interned my senior year and Coach Rodney Watson walked up to me and sat; we had a conversation for 30 minutes. Having access to the coaches made me feel like I was part of the USI Basketball family."

MICHAEL FETSCHER '96, communications, USI's Digital Media Coordinator for the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions, joined Ray's crew in 1991 as a first-year student, working the soccer scoreboard. Since then, he's seen and done it all. "This goes back to the old PAC days. I was doing sound and was located at the scorer's table at that time and at some point, USI's Coach Bruce Pearl and GLVC rival Kentucky Wesleyan's Coach Ray Harper were nose to nose, screaming at each other. I thought 'I'm just going to play the Rocky theme and see how it plays out.'"

RYAN REYNOLDS '00, journalism and computer publishing, was the Editor of *The Shield* while a student, now he is the Executive Editor of the *Evansville Courier & Press*. He calls the games for the statisticians. "You don't get absorbed in the basketball games much, because you're busy describing it, but it's fun to be here with the crew at the scorer's table. We are all part-time for this and Ray treats us well. If we are sick or can't come in, he understands and makes it work. He doesn't hold a grudge. He's just as good a dude that you'll ever find."

DARREN SHELTON, USI Distribution Services Supervisor, has rotated on and off the crew since 1993, in the days of Roberts Stadium and when typewriters were the norm. "We kept score on typewriters and paper. You would circle and underline codes Ray Simmons made with red and blue pens that we would switch at halftime." He's a scoreboard guru who takes the heat from the fans if the scoreboard isn't 100% accurate all the time. But Darren never gets heat from Ray. "If you know you are right and some coach starts yelling at you, he'll back you up."





SPORTS TICKER

INTERNATIONAL SWEEP

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

 **70** FINAL
 **34**

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

 **71** FINAL
 **42**

Women's Basketball headed to San Juan, Puerto Rico, during its non-conference slate when the Screaming Eagles flew to the **2024 Puerto Rico Clasico** in November. USI completed the two-game sweep defeating Youngstown State University and Le Moyne College.

RIVALRIES RENEWED

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

 **75** FINAL
 **73**

MEN'S BASKETBALL

 **71** FINAL
 **69**

Women's and Men's Basketball teams resumed some historic rivalries as the women defeated Northern Kentucky while the men earned a victory at Bellarmine. The Women's rivalry with Northern Kentucky dates as early as 1981-82 and back when both programs were at the Division II level. And the Men's rivalry dates to 1970 and the first USI Varsity Men's Basketball program.

RIDING HIGH IN DIVISION I

USI successfully advanced to year three of its four-year NCAA Division I transition process. Coming off a strong second season in Division I, USI Athletics saw the Screaming Eagles finish fifth in the Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner's Cup standings. Women's athletics had a particularly strong season, with USI finishing in the top four of the OVC standings in Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Softball and Tennis.

Welcome Aboard

USI is not new to recently hired Head Baseball Coach **Chris Ramirez**, the University's sixth in its storied 54-year baseball program. He visited several years ago when he was the new Head Baseball Coach for the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) when they played against USI. "At that time, we were a startup program, and USI was the class of the conference, having just won a national championship," he said. "I remember thinking as the opposing coach, 'Man, this is a nice campus.' But I didn't realize until I got here how nice it really is. It's a very, very impressive campus. I'm amazed how much the student experience is emphasized at USI. Everywhere you go has been designed with the students in mind—with lounges, game areas, food courts. A lot of universities aren't that way."

In taking this position, Ramirez said he and his family—wife Lindsay, daughters Layla (13) and Mia (8)

"No one will have higher expectations than my coaching staff and me."

and son Stryker (7)—feel like they've come home, having grown up in southeast Iowa. "We are both from the Midwest and this feels like a move back to our home neighborhood."

Ramirez, who served as a Division I assistant coach for six seasons at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi before taking the top spots at UIS and Lenoir-Rhyne, led Lenoir-Rhyne University to their most successful five-seasons in program history with a 152-80 record, reaching the NCAA post-season in 2022.

His past originally brought Ramirez to USI, but all he can see now is the future. "Our plan is to win Ohio Valley Conference championships and compete in the NCAA Division I Baseball Tournament," he said.

New Assistant Coaches

Derek Beasley, Baseball

Formerly Western Carolina University

Julianna Cramer, Volleyball

Formerly Ball State University

Hailey Diestelkamp, Women's Basketball

Formerly Missouri State University

Alyx Koert, Swimming and Diving

Formerly Lenoir-Rhyne University

Brandon Krennrich, Baseball

Formerly Lenoir-Rhyne University

Alyssa Rivera, Softball

Formerly Hampton University

Alliyah Varga, Women's Soccer

Formerly University of Tennessee

Behind the Beak

Life in the Archie Suit

By C. L. Stambush



ARCHIBALD T. EAGLE (T. stands for "The") lights up every USI event he attends, from athletic tournaments to charity dance marathons and everything in between. While we can't reveal who the humans are in the feathered suit, we can let you hear from two of the Archies, Anonymous Archies **A** and **B** as they share what it is like to be him.

How did you become Archie for the Screaming Eagles?

A. I knew one of the former Archies and they told me I should try out, so I did and here I am.

B. Pure luck. I applied to be a friend, hoping that one day I would get to put on the suit and be the Screaming Eagle.

Can you share any memorable experiences as Archie?

A. My favorite experience as Archie is when I go to elementary schools and see all the children. I love seeing all their bright faces when they watch me walk into a school.

B. I have had a lot of memorable moments, but one of my favorites was when I beat the University of Evansville's Ace Purple at air hockey during a college mascot event at Evansville's Ford Center. Go Screegals!

What kind of training or preparation did you undergo to become Archie, both physically and in terms of performance?

A. First, I had to get used to the temperature in the suit. For my performance, I watched videos of famous mascots so I could get a better understanding of what a mascot could do at events.

B. Having a hot, heavy suit on is physically demanding so I build up my endurance by doing workouts at home, especially lunges and sit ups. To improve my performance as Archie, I like to learn new TikTok dances. He enjoys dancing so I like to make sure he's up to date on all the newest trends!

How do you maintain high energy and enthusiasm during games, especially when the team is facing challenges?

A. I usually just remember how happy I am when watching other mascots do fun dances on the court. This helps me realize how motivational a mascot can be. So, when I

see our teams having a hard time, I try to keep the fans entertained while also motivating the athletes.

B. Riling up the crowd can be a little hard when you cannot yell, so I just try to jump around or wave my arms to raise the energy. When the cheerleaders start cheering, I always try to join in and get the crowd to join in as well.

What is your favorite part about being Archie, and what are the challenges?

A. I love being Archie because I get to be at all the memorable events that happen on or off campus. The main challenge is getting hot while in





In the Star's Orbit



Archie's got allies. Known as Archie's Friends, a team of students take turns being responsible to get Archie where he needs to be safely by acting as another set of eyes and handler.

the suit. To get past this I take little water breaks which really helps.

B. When I'm in the suit, I always try to high five the players when I see them. They do a good job of hyping up Archie when we do interact. The cheer and dance teams are the best supporters. I love interacting with them and watching them perform.

If you could give aspiring mascots some advice, what would it be?

A. I would tell them to have as much fun as possible. Not everyone gets to be in the spots we are in. So, enjoy the moment and show your love for our campus by being the best Archie you can be.

B. Go for it! Being Archie has been a highlight of my time at USI. It has given me so many opportunities to go to cool events and games.

Anybody can apply! There is an application form in Archie's Instagram bio!



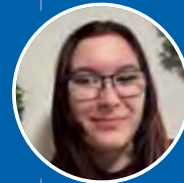
MALORIE SCHELLER '26, double major in special education and elementary education. "I love

going with Archie to fun events. I also love seeing kids' reactions to Archie. Most give Archie a big hug or high five." She says to be a good friend to Archie some things are a must. "Be full of school spirit! It's also important to be in the know about all the events at USI in case someone has a question. Being Archie's handler means speaking for Archie, so you have to be prepared to answer all the crazy questions kids may ask."



ABBY SCHELLER '26, visual art education. "My favorite part is seeing people of all ages get excited to

see Archie. From older adults to alumni to college students and younger, they are always thrilled to see 'The Eagle.' Archie knows how to make a crowd and his fans excited and pumped up.



SUSANNA SHEPARD '25, elementary education. "It is very funny watching

Archie try to get suited up by himself. Since the suit is covered in muscles, it is hard for Archie to zip it up, which is why there are Archie's Friends. One memorable moment was when we were visiting an elementary school. Archie was outside waiting for the students to get off the buses and as soon as they saw Archie, they all ran over to him and gave him hugs." Since Archie is nonverbal, Susanna likes to give him a voice. "I usually ask Archie yes or no questions so they can have a chance to speak for themselves. This helps fans get to know Archie a little better."

Meet Alliyah Varga

Assistant Coach
Women's Soccer 



What excited you about coming to USI?

I was extremely impressed with everyone throughout the interview process. Everyone was so nice and seemed very warm. I liked [Head Coach Eric Schoenstein's] vision for the program and his trust in allowing me to be involved with every aspect of the program. The facilities are beautiful here, and I love the greenery around campus.

Are you a morning person or night owl?

I don't mind getting up and starting my day with a workout or a nice little walk outside or having some time to enjoy coffee. But if pressed, I would say I am more of a nighttime person. I really enjoy looking at the stars late at night.

Do you have any pets?

I do not have any pets now, but I would really like a pet jumping spider. They are cute and can recognize their caretaker; sometimes they wave using one of their legs.

What drives you to get up every morning?

The ability to move in directions that challenge me. I don't think getting into a routine and doing the same thing every day is challenging. Comfort zones are nice places sometimes, but I do not think that allows a person to grow.

How do you spend your free time?

Recently, I have spent my free time watching birds and logging them into an app. I like to be outside walking trails, watering plants and listening to music. I also really like to paint but I haven't been able to do that for a while. A new hobby I have started is making bread.

Who is the most influential person in your life?

My dad, who was my college coach. He has been there every step of the way helping guide me to be who I am today. Throughout my soccer career, he always pushed me to be great and challenged me. He knew my potential and helped me achieve everything I wanted; not only from a player aspect but who I am as a person too. I could not have asked for a better dad.

How do you define success?

Success is different for everyone; not what others tell you success is. To me success is maximizing where I am and what I am doing. It is achieving goals that are set and obviously, being a soccer coach, one main goal is winning. I am a competitive person so winning will always be a part of my definition of success. But there will always be some games where you do not win, it is a part of life. How you grow from that loss is what matters the most.

ON THE GROW

Designed to Enhance Students' Experiences

By C. L. Stambush

THE UNIVERSITY'S RECENT expansion to the Recreation, Fitness and Wellness Center (RFWC), and updates to the Health Professions Center and the Liberal Arts Center—a whopping 82,200-square-foot of new and renovated spaces between the three—highlights our commitment to education and people.

"I wanted people to see this space as a place that addresses all students' physical and emotional needs, while also supporting recruitment and retention," said James Wolfe, Director of Facility Operations and Planning, in talking about the Recreation, Fitness and Wellness Center addition.

The Center's unique design promotes calm and care, featuring a moss wall, quiet rooms and recreational spaces. It consolidates several student-focused departments under one roof. Meanwhile, Phase III renovations of the Health Professions Center have created advanced, hands-on learning environments for healthcare students, with Phase IV, introducing a new look for the entrance of campus and more administrative and classroom space, underway this fall.

If you haven't visited USI recently, especially if you're an alum, now is the perfect time to come back and explore campus.

Transforming Campus Life: A New Era of Wellbeing

PUBLIC SAFETY

The safety of our campus has always been a cornerstone of the University of Southern Indiana, and Public Safety's new space is a powerful reminder of that commitment. "The fact that we now literally sit at the entrance of this new building is an awesome reminder of what we do," says Sam Preston, Director of Public Safety.

Relocating to the main floor of the RFWC is an upgrade for the University community and Public Safety. "Being closer to housing is advantageous for after-hour emergencies," Preston said. "We often respond to injuries from intramural events, so being on-site will be beneficial to students."

Previously based in a temporary 1970s building, Public Safety had to evacuate to the College of Liberal Arts basement during tornado warnings. The new dispatch room,





encased in two feet of concrete and steel, ensures the team can remain operational during severe weather and other emergencies. "We've updated our dispatch console with touch screens and additional monitors for cameras, weather information and other critical systems," Preston adds.

The new office features a 24/7 access window to Dispatch (where officers can view the more than 500 cameras across campus), evidence storage lockers, interview rooms, group reporting rooms, a conference/training room, lost and found, locker rooms and a bike and equipment storage room.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

When it comes to prime real estate, it's location, location, location...and the new Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) office is now on Rodeo Drive, so to speak. The new suite of offices, counseling rooms, triage spaces and more are on the top floor of the Center, overlooking the campus' main boulevard. "Our new location is, in a way, more centrally located to the heart of campus, while at the same time in a more discrete location, and without the heavy foot traffic of the Orr Building," said Dr. Robin Sanabria, Director of CAPS. "We can now leave our window shades open during sessions without having to be concerned about protecting client confidentiality."

Previously located in the Orr Center since 1973, CAPS needed not only more space to counsel students (whose fees cover the costs of counseling), but a fresh look too. The expanded suite includes individual

counseling rooms, two group/conference rooms, a triage room and extra offices for the department's counseling staff to grow into as students' needs expand. "We needed a facelift to help students feel more comfortable in our space, but we also needed an additional group meeting space," Sanabria said. "The offices are brighter, cleaner and more modern, with fresh, comfortable office furniture."

STUDENT WELLNESS

Wellness begins with the individual, and the USI Student Wellness facility is not only getting great neighbors, but a significant refresh to its existing space as well. The renovations include an extensive lounge space with all new gaming stations, pool and ping pong tables, tons of new seating, vending machines, microwaves, a multipurpose room/kitchenette and more. There are study areas and small meeting rooms students can use, as well as a Quiet Lounge. The shades on some of the light fixtures are made of felt to help dampen the sound

"I look forward to using the new spaces (such as the Quiet Lounge) for wellness programs related to stress management and healthy sleep," said Catherine Champagne, Assistant Program Director of Student Wellness. "I am excited for students to see the space and utilize the many wellness resources that exist on campus in one convenient location."

Entrance to the fitness area includes a beautiful new check-in counter where pool sticks, ping pong paddles, gaming equipment and more can be checked out. The locker rooms were repainted and the fitness area floor replaced.

A planned future addition to the building, slated for 2025, includes a new bike shop and an expanded free weight area.





USI DEACONESS HEALTH CLINIC

The new USI Deaconess Health Clinic, now triple its previous size, offers comprehensive care comparable to primary and urgent care facilities.

Services include skin biopsies; COVID, strep, flu, STI testing; basic splints; cryotherapy; pap smears; stitches; and more.

The Clinic features separate entrances for students and faculty/staff, eight exam rooms, an immunization/allergy room, space for a future pharmacy and a bariatric room designed for tall student-athletes, wheelchair users and patients with special needs. "The allergy room is crucial for quick service," said Christine Waterman, Practice Manager.

All three nurse practitioners are USI graduates with bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing. "They are deeply committed to students, faculty and staff," Waterman noted, emphasizing their thorough patient care, which has led to significant medical discoveries, including collapsed lungs, cancer and heart conditions.

The Clinic also manages chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension. "We can serve as the primary caregiver for USI employees and enrolled students, up to six months post-graduation," Waterman said.



RELIGIOUS LIFE

When it comes to student wellness, mind, body and spirit are equally important. The new Religious Life offices are on the main floor of the RFWC, occupying a welcoming space for people of all faiths. There is a Meditation Lounge where small groups can gather for Bible studies, small worship services and individual study. Students holding faith-based and faith-adjacent events can reserve this room through Special Events and Scheduling Services.

There are 12 faith-based student organizations on campus: one Muslim group, two denomination-specific Christian groups and nine nondenominational Christian groups. "Religious Life is the umbrella of all the different faith groups on campus. Our goal is to connect students with faith communities so that they can find a faith-home-away-from-home and a sense of belonging here at USI," said Anna Schulten, Director of Religious Life.

Along with the new space comes new offerings: a Listening Lounge, where a faith-based advisor and/or chaplain will be available daily for students to stop by, unscheduled, and share what's on their mind, and workshops, offered quarterly to help students explore their core values, mission and the unique giftedness they bring to the community.





UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

University Strategic Communication is no longer housed in a temporary building (rumored to have once held Indiana University Medical School's cadavers). The department's new suite has space for the entire team—the writers and the photographers—to be together under one roof. The space includes offices, a conference room, a new photography studio with high ceiling and state-of-the-art lighting (that can now accommodate athletic and staff teams of every size), a sound booth and video production room. The former studio could not accommodate large groups to be photographed and limited the photo team's creativity in terms of backgrounds. The new space can fit more than one athletic team and has an infinity wall to allow for seamless photography. The new recording studio allows for more creative opportunities, such as making audio recordings of some *Illume* magazine articles.

"The Creative and Print Center, formerly called the Publishing Services Center and endearingly, The Pub, has been a good home for us for many years," said John Farless '98 M'21, Chief Communications Officer, "but as we continue to grow, this new space better accommodates our needs and centrally locates us on campus. It also gives Creative and Print needed space to expand its operations until a new building is completed to meet their needs."

Next-Level Learning: Renovations Redefine Education

DENTAL HYGIENE AND DENTAL ASSISTING

USI's Dental Hygiene program, the first in Indiana to offer a bachelor's degree, is elevating its educational opportunities with expanded facilities and advanced equipment in the Health Professions Center. The program has increased its clinic space from 12 to 18 operatories and upgraded all equipment, providing more hands-on training for students and greater access to low-cost dental hygiene services for the community. "The new clinic was necessary due to aging equipment and repair costs, as well as growth potential for the programs," said Emily Holt '00 '01 M'04, Clinical Professor and Chair of the Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs.

USI has invested in cutting-edge equipment, including soft tissue diode lasers and Prophylaxis Masters, which are becoming the standard of care in dental offices. "Our graduates will be prepared to offer top-notch care in their careers," Holt said.

Additionally, the program features a new 12-station simulation laboratory for dental assisting students, complete with a simulation manikin to teach essential skills.

"USI is the only dental assisting and dental hygiene program in the state to offer a simulation laboratory," Holt noted. The simulators enhance clinical competency, reinforce ergonomic positioning and prepare students for long, healthy careers. "It's exciting to see students being trained in the best environment with the best equipment available."

CLINICAL SIMULATION CENTER

Clinical Simulations Coordinator Carly Andrews '17 M'18 is thrilled about the recent upgrades to the Health Professions Center's Clinical Simulation Center. These renovations significantly enhance students' healthcare education, offering four distinct simulation suites—Emergency Room, Intensive Care, Post-Acute Care and Obstetrics/ Pediatric—that mirror real medical environments. The advanced hospital equipment is adaptable for diverse learning objectives, and each suite now has its own dedicated control room, improving operational flexibility and supporting simultaneous simulations.

"All suites are equipped with cutting-edge audio-visual recording technology managed by Sim Capture," said Andrews. This allows for real-time feedback and progress tracking, enabling students to review their recorded simulations for reflective learning and skill refinement.

A key upgrade is the addition of advanced simulator manikins, which intensify the realism and effectiveness of training scenarios. "These enhancements align with our mission to prepare



health professions students to deliver safe, quality care through simulation methodologies and interprofessional education," said Andrews.

The Center also features a Virtual Reality Lab for immersive training and, in future phases, an Experiential Learning Lab with Anatomage tables for interactive anatomical education. "This approach underscores USI's commitment to advancing healthcare education through innovative technology and experiential learning," Andrews added.





RADIOLOGICAL AND IMAGING SCIENCES

The Health Professions Center's Mitchell Auditorium has been transformed into an advanced learning space for students in the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Program. Previously located on the second floor, the program was designed for 12 students but quickly outgrew its space. The new, significantly larger facility features four digital radiography rooms, an MRI simulator, a CT scanner and two digital mobile radiography units.

"Previously, all students had to share one room for radiographic exposures," said Dr. Joy Cook '03 M'09 D'22, Associate Professor, Chair and Program Director of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences. The additional rooms reduce group sizes, offering students more hands-on practice time and individualized instruction. The expanded classroom also supports future program growth, potentially allowing more students to enroll in USI's highly competitive program.

The new equipment mirrors the technology used in clinical settings, easing students' transition to clinical practice. The upgrades include imaging phantoms, which are real or human tissue-equivalent objects used for practicing radiography. "The renovations allowed us to obtain whole-body imaging phantoms, enabling students to practice radiology positioning, make exposures, evaluate their performance and improve through repeated practice," said Cook.

ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Artifacts unearthed by students and faculty in USI's Archaeology Field School are finally being showcased in a new, purpose-built laboratory designed to meet the specific needs of student learning. "In our previous space, the basement of Public Safety, dirty excavation equipment was stored in the same room as the artifacts," said Dr. Michael Strezewski, Professor of Anthropology. "This created contamination issues, and we needed a clean, secure area for the collections."

The old location was also too small to house all the artifacts in one place, offering little space for students to work. "I typically have two or three students working on projects each semester, and they didn't have room to spread out artifacts for cataloging and analysis," Strezewski explained. The new, much larger space now allows all collections to be housed in one location, providing ample room for student projects.

Located on the lower level of the Liberal Arts Center, the new facility, previously a computer lab, is used for teaching, artifact processing and analysis, storage and faculty research. "Students learn about different artifacts in the archaeology lab class, with many hands-on activities," Strezewski said.

Strezewski is excited about the new space's potential impact. "We now have big windows along the hallway, which will boost the profile of anthropology and allow people to see what archaeology is about." ▼



Paying It Forward in Millions of Different Ways

WAYNE KINNEY '77, accounting, was the son of schoolteachers. While a student at the University, he worked full-time while attending classes. After graduation, he put his education to work at various hospitals before deciding to invest in a future for his family in a different way by founding the Evansville-based Innovative Consulting Group. The company—focused on flexible healthcare IT services and engagement with hospitals across the country—prospered.

In 2023, when Wayne and his wife Beth, an educator in Evansville schools for many years, sold the company, they knew they wanted to do something that would provide for the future of Evansville, USI and its students. Both their children, Julie Burczyk '06 M'09, elementary education, education, and Jeff Kinney M'10, business administration, studied at USI and were succeeding in their chosen careers. It was time, they felt, to pay it forward.

The Kinney's became aware of USI's impact on healthcare in this region—over 4,300 College of Nursing and Health Professions graduates residing in four local counties—



**Kinney College of Nursing
and Health Professions**

and wanted to play a larger role in the wellbeing of area residents by making a \$6 million leadership gift to the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

The unrestricted funds will be used to address the greatest needs of the College, and the College has been named to reflect the family's generosity: The Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions.

"We are excited to be making this gift and to be part of USI's ongoing story of success," Wayne said. "We look forward to the many ways this investment will enhance the College of Nursing and Health Professions, its students and faculty and, ultimately, our community."

Thank you, Kinney Family, for your gift and for helping USI continue to better lives.

IMAGINE ALL THE PEOPLE

By C. L. Stambush

MORE THAN 40 years ago, the only thing Lori (Goodman) Kissinger '84 wanted was to graduate high school, get married, stay home and bake cookies. Fortunately, that didn't pan out. Instead, she's spent a lifetime in the art world creating opportunities for everyone to showcase their talent. Especially, people with disabilities.

Lori's life has always been steeped in the arts. An accomplished musical virtuoso, she plays 100 instruments. "I have training on the harp, guitar and voice," she says. "The rest were learned by ear and research."

After graduating from USI with a bachelor's degree in marketing, she rotated through a few jobs

before taking a position with the Evansville Arts Council (known today as the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana). "I was hired as the Program Coordinator where I was responsible for the Ohio River Arts Festival, Affiliate Artist Program and Press Youth Awards," she says. "Within six months, I was moved into the Executive Director position which I held for 10 years."





"For us, the Grand Daddy award has been the Governor's Arts Award in Arts Leadership." >

During Lori's tenure with the Council, she developed deep roots and was known for showcasing local talent internationally. "The organization started a program called A.C.E. (Arts, Culture, and Education). The art departments from all five Evansville public high schools selected one art student to work on a project focused on another country," she says. "We then took those students to that country."

It could be argued that the impetus for Lori eventually starting a nonprofit in Tennessee—one dedicated to bringing the arts to people with disabilities and receiving the Governor's Arts Award in Arts Leadership in 2023—began with a volunteer she'd met while working at the Arts Council in 1996. "One of our volunteers was connected to Indiana's Very Special Arts (VSA) affiliate program. He had a child with a disability and wanted to add an accessible element to the Ohio River Arts Festival children's area," says Lori. "Which we did. We were able to do this by receiving a grant from VSA Indiana."

The additional program to the Ohio River Arts Festival also opened a new door in Lori's life. "At that time VSA had a lot of festivals and because I played music, I was invited to use music to work with the special education students," she says. As accomplished as Lori is, however, she tends to balk.

Lori was concerned she lacked experience working with people with disabilities. But when she learned VSA offered a master artists training program, that would qualify her to work in schools' Special Education classes using music as an educational tool, she agreed. The experience ignited a new drive in Lori. "I ended up doing my second graduate degree thesis on how to use music as a communication tool with children with disabilities."

Teaching became a passion for Lori. Aside from her USI undergraduate degree, she holds two master's degrees, one in library science and another in communication. While still living in Evansville, she began teaching communication courses

at USI. "I taught for about three years under Bob Jeffers. Prior to that, I taught for several years in continuation education, while working at the Arts Council and playing music," she says.

The blend of passions—art and education—culminated when she and her husband (they met at USI) moved to Nashville, Tennessee.

She took a teaching position at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in the Communication Studies Department, where she's been for the past 22 years racking up awards. "I love teaching and love my students," she says.

While she thrived at MTSU, she missed being a working music teacher for VSA Indiana and hoped to continue the work in Tennessee. Except, VSA didn't have an affiliate program in Tennessee.

Lori called her contacts in Indiana to inquire further and a week later she received a call from the VSA office in Washington D.C., asking her



"We reach about 600 children in school residencies."

to form an affiliate in Tennessee. "They knew I had run the Arts Council in Evansville and that I was a VSA artist," she says. "I told them no. I

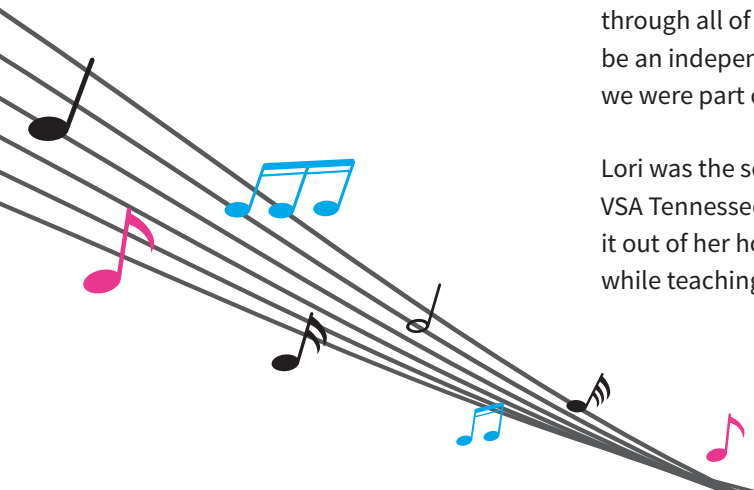
knew what it took to run a nonprofit and I knew no one in Tennessee."

She agreed to form the organization's structure, however, with the idea of turning it over to someone else. That never happened. Instead, she became the Director. "I wrote the bylaws, found the board members, created the programs, etc.," says Lori. "We got our 501(c)3 and went through all of the requirements to be an independent nonprofit, but we were part of a bigger picture."

Lori was the sole employee of the VSA Tennessee affiliate, operating it out of her home for 16 years while teaching full time at MTSU.

In 2010, however, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts absorbed the VSA program and discontinued the affiliates seven years later. Not to be deterred from her passion project, Lori pivoted. "I had to reform the organization," she says. "We changed our name to Borderless Arts Tennessee. We changed our logo. We did not have to refile with the IRS and our mission and Board stayed the same, however, we did have to rebrand."

Over the decades, Lori's dedication to the arts and disabled people has led to some stunning accomplishments for the nonprofit's participants. "Our musicians have played on every major stage in Tennessee: the Ryman, Dollywood, the Grand Ole Opry House, CMA, the Ford Theater at the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Caverns and more." Lori may be the only Borderless





LIVING THE Dream



Arts Tennessee employee, but she is not alone in her work. "I may have conceived and birthed it, but its success is tied to many, many people. The artistic quality comes from having some outstanding teaching artists that lead our projects, extremely generous donors that provide the funding and an amazing board."

For someone who only wanted to get married, stay home and bake cookies, Lori's life did not turn out as she envisioned, but so much sweeter. "This [organization] is my baby, and the people here have brought more into my life than I ever thought was possible," she says. "None of this was the direction I saw for my life, but it certainly ended up being more than I imagined." ▼

When Mattel came to campus in the spring of 1982 looking for students to represent a living Barbie at fashion shows and in parades, Lori (Goodman) Kissinger '84 thought it sounded like a fun gig. "I have always liked to make people happy, and this seemed to do just that. Barbie had done many things in her life and was a good, wholesome role model," she said.

Lori fit Mattel's criteria in height, hair coloring and dimensions, so she filled out an application and got the job. "I had recently worked very hard to lose a lot of weight," she said, "and this challenge seemed like something that would help me keep it off."

During her tenure as Barbie, Lori's role was to appear in regional fashion shows and parades wearing upscale Barbie clothes and sign Barbie headshot photographs, event fliers and boxes of Barbies girls purchased at the events. Before each event, Lori went to the home of the Mattel representative in Newburgh, Indiana, to try on the outfit to ensure it fit. "The outfits were selected by Mattel based on promotions and the newest Barbie fashions. I remember a beautiful silky pantsuit and two beautiful formal gowns. One was called peaches and crème. I wore it in several parades," she said. "The other was red and white."

Not only was it fun strutting runways as a living Barbie, but Lori was paid too. "That job helped me pay for a lot of things when I was in college."

She worked as Barbie all through her college years and for several years after graduating. "I was Mattel's longest running Barbie model and was given one of the costumes (a Cowgirl outfit) to keep," she said.

— C. L. Stambush



40 Cool Things We LOVE About USI

By  C. L. Stambush



WE DON'T NEED to tell you why you loved attending the University of Southern Indiana. Your love list is long. But we thought it would be fun to gather a bunch of amazing USI things in one long list. We reached out to everyone far and wide to compile a list of things (not everything we love and in no particular order) illustrating a sampling of reasons to love USI.



1

OUR ORIGIN STORY

Screaming Eagles Pride is rooted in a band of citizens determined to make sure everyone who wanted a college education didn't have to leave their hometown to earn one...and at an affordable price too. Many had their paychecks automatically deducted to help support the University. That's the power of the people and Screagle power. Don't ever get in the way of a determined Screaming Eagle.



2

KIWIBOT ROBOTS

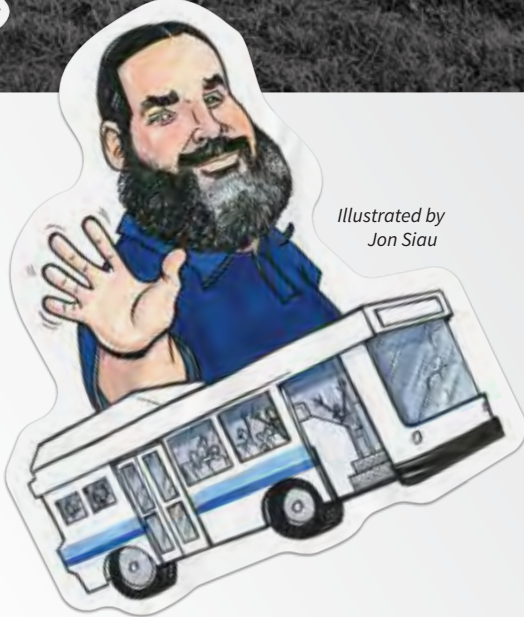
Short and squat with heart eyes that blink "love" and other messages, campus Kiwibots are the robots used to deliver food across campus. Inside their hollow tummies, bags of food—orders totaled 10,908 in Spring 2024—are dispatched to any building on campus. Newman Hall has the most deliveries with 7 p.m. being the most popular time. It's not just a student thing, faculty and staff love them too. "...many consider them to be part of the USI family," said Kindra Strupp M'22, Vice President for Marketing and Communication. "It is quite common to hear people remark how cute they are as they roll by."



3

JAMES THE BUS DRIVER

METS bus driver James Putnam has been doing his share of making USI the friendliest campus north of the Mason Dixon line by waving at every passing vehicle and fist bumping every boarding passenger on his campus/ Evansville route. Students say his small consistent acts of kindness and compassion make them feel good that a stranger cares enough about them to offer a friendly wave and smile. James averages 936,000 fist bumps and waves per year.





4

NASA GRANTS

In 2016, 10 engineering students received a NASA grant to build and deploy the Undergraduate Nano Ionosphere Temperature Explorer (UNITE) satellite, a CubeSat designed to explore and gather vital ionosphere and plasma information from outer space. A team worked with Dr. Glenn Kissel, Associate Professor Emeritus of Engineering, to develop one of the most successful CubeSats launched from a field of 47 colleges, beating biggies such as Stanford. USI's satellite remained in space for 1,047 days, outlasting most other teams.

5

ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

While there is supposed to be "no crying" per Tom Hank's character Jimmy in *A League of Their Own*, there were plenty of tears of joy when USI's Softball team captured its first-ever NCAA Division II

Midwest Regional title in 2017 and again this past March when the Women's Basketball team won the 2024 Ohio Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament Championship. They were the first USI athletic team to bring home a title in the University's Division I era. Over the years, plenty of tears of joy have been shed as USI student-athletes collected 310 championships as teams and individuals in conference and national tournaments.

6

ANCIENT ARTIFICES

A 600-year-old Arabic manuscript titled *Balaghah* (translation: oratory) is a handwritten, incomplete book (middle pages only) on rhetoric, with magic codes and symbols in the margins, donated to the University's John M. Lawrence '73 Library (established by alum John Lawrence '73, accounting, who is passionate about preserving ancient texts) by Michael Aakhus, Professor Emeritus of Art; Dean Emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts, and Patricia Aakhus, Associate Professor of English (deceased). "It is not uncommon

7

FACULTY

Sure, every university will list their faculty as a point of pride, but how many go to extremes to ensure every single student has the same opportunities? Case in point, when the Geology, Physics and Environmental Science Department faculty Dr. Kent Scheller, Professor of Physics, and Dr. Matthew Merlo, Teaching Assistant Professor of Physics, were planning the April 8, 2024, Solarpalooza, they learned there was a device created by a nonprofit that allowed visually impaired people to hear the eclipse. Knowing there was a student on



campus who was legally blind, Merlo initiated the steps necessary to apply for a device and received two of them. While some aspects of the eclipse could be experienced with senses other than sight—such as cooling temperatures—having the apparatus available to ensure everyone could be immersed in the eclipse was important. "We thought it was a cool way to include them in the once-in-a-lifetime event we were having," Merlo said. "We also thought it was a good way to educate the public, that there are people in our community who are visually impaired."



USI-BURDETTE TRAIL

Get a "green bath" on this three-mile paved scenic trail, the result of a partnership between USI and Burdette Park, a designated destination point of the American Discovery Trial, which passes through Southern Indiana.



LAKES

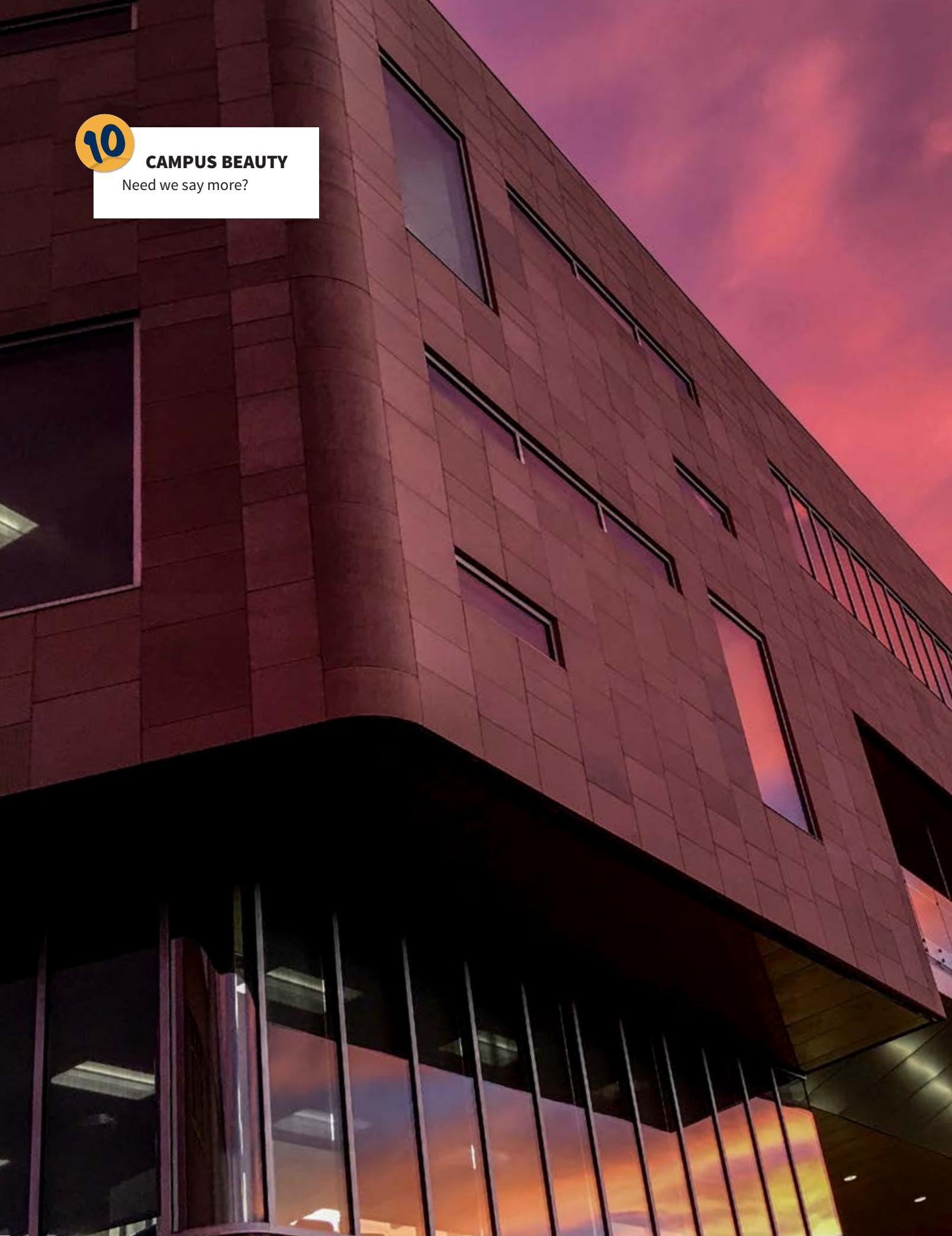
Reflection Lake and Fountain Lake are open to the public

for fishing, provided you have a valid fishing permit from the City of Evansville. Both are filled with bass, bluegill and channel catfish (stocked annually by the Department of Natural Resources to balance the populations of other fish). "I enjoy taking my grandson fishing in one of the USI lakes," said Mike Whicker '98.

10

CAMPUS BEAUTY

Need we say more?



11

LIFE-LONG CONNECTIONS

You may have come to USI solo, but you didn't leave that way. "I gained so many lifelong friendships—five out of my seven groomsmen were fellow Lambda Chi and Screaming Eagles. I was never alone, and I had so many great people help me along the way, including Janet Johnson M'05 (Director Emerita of Alumni Engagement and Volunteer USI), Dr. Trent Engbers (Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Administration) and many others in the Student Development Programs (now called Center for Campus Life). One of the things I oddly miss the most are the late-night student meetings in the UC with fellow classmates and friends," said Alex Martens '16, history.

"Friendships that transcended our time on campus and became lifelong. Experiences that develop us into critical thinking, kind humans who love learning and want more for our communities," said Rebecca (Smith) Schroeder '01, science (teaching).



"Lexi [Alexis (Leak) Bruner '15, health services] and I both enjoyed our four years at USI very much. We knew each other in school but didn't start dating until after graduation. In my new role as Director of Athletics Ticketing, I love being able to spend time together supporting USI Athletics back on campus. The student-athletes and the community are the best part," said Blake Bruner '15, sport management.



12

ALUMNI MEMORIES

We could not list all the formative memories our 54,000+ alumni have of their time at the University, but this one touches on all the key points: faculty, friends, coursework and opportunities.

"My fondest memory of USI was the time I spent in the Chemistry Department, whether that was attending class, studying for exams with friends, taking one of Professor (Marie) Hankins's ridiculous unlimited time P-Chem exams or working as a lab assistant to prepare general/organic chemistry labs, I spent a huge amount of my four years at USI in that department. During that time, I also had my eyes open to the excitement of doing research which led me to a fantastic career path that I would not change. [I was] fortunate enough to spend the summer at the University of Alabama doing research which was directly due to my experience at USI. This opportunity solidified my desire to pursue my PhD in organic chemistry," said Scott Greenfield '98, chemistry.



13

LITERARY PUBLICATIONS

Southern Indiana Review—aka, *SIR*—is USI's internationally recognized literary journal. Co-established in 1994 by English faculty members Matthew Graham (Indiana Poet Laurette 2020–23) and Thomas Wilhelmus, it began as a place for RopeWalk Writers Retreat workshop faculty and students to publish. During its 30 years of literary excellence, *SIR* has featured National Poetry Series winners, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalists and the current Poet Laureate of the United States, Ada Limón. Students taking courses in the new literary editing and publishing minor edit the journal, correspond with authors and more. "The opportunity to work at a literary journal of *SIR*'s caliber is not commonly available to undergraduates," said Casey Pycior, Associate Professor of English and *SIR* fiction editor. "We've got something really special here, and we're excited about the experience we can provide students."

14

TRADITIONS

There are USI traditions—SpringFest, Culture Night, Welcome Week—and then there are traditions. "I love it that I started a tradition in my family of graduating from USI—nieces, nephews and cousins have followed me [to USI], graduating from this fine institution. I love it that I started [my life's] foundation graduating from USI, worked for 20 years and then completed a master's in health informatics. I love that, because of my successes, I have the means necessary to take great care of my 3-year-old daughter, Wendy," said Jeffery Hay '00, health services.

15

USI SOCKS

While we have enough USI attire available—T-shirts, caps, infinity scarves—to show your love for USI wherever you go, the socks fit almost any occasion.





16 MEDIA EXPERIENCE
The media plays a crucial and serious role in society, and we love that our campus' media outlets prepare students pursuing those careers with essential hands-on experience by putting them in charge of all the responsibility required of these stewardships.

18 ARCHIBALD T. EAGLE
USI's mascot, Archie, has been your wingman (literally) since 1970, although he wasn't named until 1978 when the Activities Planning Board, Student Government Association and the student newspaper (*The Shield*) held a contest. Over the decades, he's evolved in appearance and come full circle from his original fierce image to today's modernized version of fierceness, taking on some of the characteristics of our athletic teams—strong, competitive and tough. (*Psst, if you want the scoop on what it's like to be in the Archie suit, see page 12.*)

17 INTERNATIONAL FOOD EXPO
Yummy. Who doesn't love food from exotic locales without having to leave the country? Every February, we get to delight our tastebuds. The expo allows USI's international students to showcase the rich tapestry of their home countries' cultural diversity, customs and cuisine to both the USI community and public through main dishes and desserts from around the world. Jazzing things up are musical performances and fashion shows highlighting traditional cultural attire and dancing.

19 LOVE MATCHES
While we know there have been plenty of couples who met at USI and then married, Men's/ Women's Cross Country Track and Field Head Coach Mike Hillyard might be nicknamed the Marriage Maker, having attended 25 weddings of his runners who paired up for life.





20

THE FOUNTAIN

Greeting everyone as they enter campus with its happy dance is the Robert M. Kent Family Fountain. Seeing its 15 columns of water bouncing between 4 and 6 feet high, you can't help but smile when you see it. One person described it as being on par with a Disney World welcome.

21

GUEST SPEAKERS

Endowments established by the USI Foundation fund Romain College of Business Innovative Speaker Series, Marlene V. Shaw Biology Lecture Series and Edward D. and Regina Rechnic Holocaust Speaker Series. Scintillating guests such as Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, Holocaust author Margaret McMullan and Director of CREW (Center of Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife) Dr. Terri Roth spoke on campus.

23

THE ROUNDABOUT

It's the first test students encounter coming to campus. Most ace it, but a few might have to repeat the test.

24

EARTHQUAKE READER

This seismometer (buried in an underground vault behind the Foundation office off Clarke Lane) records the Earth's vibrations from earthquakes to building implosions. Owned by the U.S. Geological Survey and maintained by the Earthquake Research Center at Saint Louis University, USI Geology hosts the instrumentation. The one owned on campus has recorded earthquakes in Turkey and Indonesia. It also picked up the implosion of the Old National Bank Tower on 4th and Main in 2021.



22

COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC

Since 1972, students in USI's Dental Hygiene Program have been providing generations of students, employees, and the public with affordable cleanings, X-rays and fluoride treatments. "I have been teaching in the dental programs for 23 years, and we still have some of the same patients who come out to the clinic," said Emily Holt '00 '01 M'04, Clinical Professor and Chair of the Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs. "Many of our elder patients have been coming to us since they lost their dental insurance upon retirement. Our fees are exceptionally lower than those charged in dental practices, which allows us to provide all services without financial difficulty. Many patients exclaim they receive the best care in our dental clinic due to the high standards of our faculty members and program." *(We have a new state-of-the-art Dental Clinic where community members can receive treatment. Read about it on page 18.)*



25 STUDY ABROAD

We love our German sister campus, Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences (UAS), in Osnabrück, Germany. USI and UAS Osnabrück have had an exchange partnership since 1990, making it the University's longest standing exchange program, with more than 200 American and German students and faculty participating since its inception. Timothy Rosignol, a USI junior sociology and German major who was among the 18 students who participated in the 2024 intensive summer program, had this advice for anyone going abroad: "Always try to get comfortable with being uncomfortable, because you're going to be uncomfortable [at times] for the rest of your life."

26 FIELD WORK

For the past 30 years, the Geology Program has led a summer field excursion, taking students to visit areas of geologic significance across North America, including Volcanoes National Park in Hawaii, Acadia National Park in Maine, Yosemite National Park in California, Olympic National Park in Washington and provincial parks in Canada. These trips provide students with first-hand knowledge of unique geologic settings.

27 AN EMMY

We've got an Emmy! Well, one of our former students, Dan Brumett, gave it to USI. He won 12 of them for his work editing and directing the soap opera *The Young and the Restless*. Despite not graduating, he recalled the support he got as a student in another USI publication. "I remember the USI staff's dedication to me as a student," he said. "They wanted to see me succeed."

28 THEATRE

The Performance Center is a real jewel with 300 seats and a stage that projects into the audience. There is not a single bad seat in the house, and it has exceptional natural acoustics with state-of-the-art lighting and sound.

29 COSTUME SHOP

USI's theatre students painstakingly create every costume from scratch down to the smallest authentic detail. Patterns are made by draping muslin on a dress form before transforming the resulting shape into a paper pattern used to cut the fabric. There are thousands of costumes hanging in the stockroom waiting to be deconstructed and repurposed for other plays. Approximately 1,274 hours go into creating costumes for each play—some of them weigh 50 pounds!



30

NEW HARMONY

No other university in the world has a New Harmony in its backyard. Not only is its history unique—home to two early American utopian communities (George Rapp and the Harmonist 1814-1824, and Robert Owen's happiness, enlightenment, and prosperity through education, science, technology and communal living)—but it's a living lab for several of USI's programs, from biology to archeology as well as a destination for first-year students through the UNIV101: Screaming Eagle Experience class. Employees like it too. "In my downtime, my favorite thing to do is rollerblade through

New Harmony in the sunshine!" said Audra Lambert, Curator of New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art.



31

COMMUNAL STUDIES

The Center for Communal Studies and Collections is the foremost research depository in the United States for historical communal groups, intentional communities and utopias. It houses written documentation collected from more than 500 communities. It contains 15,000 images, 243 oral histories and has New Harmony, Indiana, at its back door—a living laboratory for communal living.

32

LEARNING TOOLS

Kinesiology students have some cool equipment to learn on, and the Alter G Anti-Gravity Treadmill is one of the coolest. The Indianapolis Colts have one at their training facility and Adam Vinatieri, former placekicker for the Colts, has one in his house. USI has two. Designed to take the weight off (literally), the anti-gravity treadmill prepares students to use this sophisticated tool in their professional careers. "We have so much cool stuff. We

have metabolic carts to measure oxygen consumption, we have 3D motion capture like what CGI movies use, we have Wireless Electromyography, we have advanced body composition equipment such as a Bodpod," says Dr. Cody Strom, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Sport. In fact, USI's Bodpod and Strom appeared in an episode of TLC's *1000-lb Sisters* when the stars came to campus to get their percentage of body fat measured. That was cool.



33

THE CONE

Other campuses have stuffy clock towers, but the structure at the center of our campus is a beacon with a modern twist, and a good place for a photo op.



34

HAMMOCKS

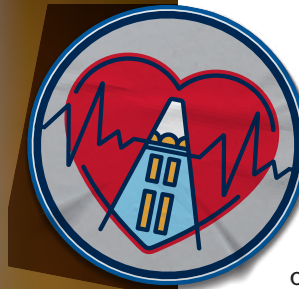
Every spring, summer and fall, students stretch out on hammocks tethered to trees on The Quad and outside student housing. When the balance of work, classes and extracurricular activities get out of whack, students cocoon and recalibrate in them.

35

THE GAZEBO

The West Side Nut Club gifted this to the University in 2006. It's the perfect place to hang out on a spring or fall day and get some course work done. The breeze off of Reflection Lake is perfect. Dr. David Ritterskamp, Instructor in Mathematics, picked it for the site of his wedding, the first of many in the gazebo.





38 PREPPING DOCTORS

USI's Pre-Professional program has produced over 500 medical professionals, determined by matriculation into professional school. This includes students who studied pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, pre-chiropractic, pre-optometry, pre-physician assistant, pre-pharmacy, pre-occupational therapy, pre-physical therapy, pre-veterinary and medical laboratory science. The program also offers Indiana's first pre-medical sciences certificate which allows students to pursue any major while still meeting the criteria to apply to a professional school. Students work with experienced faculty in small classes to get the preparation needed to reach graduate schools and professional objectives in the medical fields.

36 UNDERGROUND RESEARCH

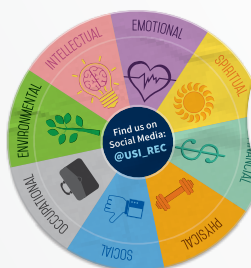
There is a U.S. Geological Survey Groundwater Station located inside the Science Center supporting student and faculty research in environmental science and geology. There are two groundwater wells that were drilled into sandstone bedrock prior to the construction of the Science Center. The well heads are accessible in a classroom, providing a one-of-a-kind laboratory experience for our students.

37 LEARNING BY DOING

The Applied Engineering Center provides our engineering students access to 3D printers, robotics, laser and waterjet cutters, lathes, mills and grinders. The Center also allows for collaboration between the University and regional industry partners and entrepreneurs. In one such partnership, students helped create and market a device designed to assist people who've lost partial function in their hands, due to strokes or other types of brain and spinal injuries, regain use.

39 FRIENDLINESS

We are known for having the "friendliest students" around. The staff, administrators and faculty are pretty darn friendly too.





40 STICKERS

Students are always on the search for ways to connect with others, express their identity, add personality to their belongings and tell the story of their life's journeys—and USI's stickers are a spoke in their story wheel. The University Creative and Print Department, our professional in-house design and production team, produced 41,517+ of these cool, little must-haves this year. Designs ranged from motivational sayings to images of our iconic Cone and a whole lot in between. Admissions especially loves to give them to prospective students to put on their laptops and water bottles, as do the Library, Biology Department and more. "It's a little bit of personality you take with you and show off," says Aaron Black, Assistant Director of Creative.

Keep on sticking! ▼

Post Animated USI Stickers!
SEARCH "USIEDU" ON INSTAGRAM STORIES

DISABILITY IS NOT A TRAGEDY!
IT'S LIKE TRIPPING ON BACON

KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING

University of Southern Indiana

C&M
COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

ENGINEERING

SOLAR PALOOZA
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
4-8-24

USI MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

SCIENCE

I AM FIRST GEN

University of Southern Indiana

USI

University of Southern Indiana

USI Be a Teacher

USI

SOUTHERN INDIANA
Center for Adult Learner Success

CREATIVE PRINT SERVICES

PROUD USI PARENT



A Heart



ELIZABETH THANG '18, business, always knew she would use her USI education to improve the lives of the people in her homeland—especially children and young adults. "I knew Myanmar needed me more than me staying in the United States after graduation, having a job and just living for myself," she says.

Elizabeth comes from a family tradition of caring for those who have no one else. Her maternal grandfather took in orphaned children, raising them alongside his own, and Elizabeth's mother grew up with a "heart for orphans." After her parents married, they opened an orphanage in 1995, taking care of 15 children in a bamboo hut. "Myanmar is one of the poorest countries in the world, there are so many kids on the streets and kids that are left by their parents," Elizabeth says.

Over the years, her parents' original orphanage, Love Children's Home (LCH), expanded to a main campus housing 100 orphans to include a network of 12 additional satellite shelters where another 400 children live. While Elizabeth and her sister grew up alongside the orphaned children, she did not expect to one day lead the LCH operation. However, when her father died of COVID in 2021, as the eldest daughter, Elizabeth stepped into his role as president. "Taking care of [all the] orphans is a full-time commitment. It feels like you work 24/7, because you live with them on the same campus," she says.

for Others

By C. L. Stambush

Together with her mother, sister and 10 employees, they make sure the children in the LCH network are cared for physically and mentally, as well as being educated. The latter being an additional endeavor Elizabeth undertook with her sister when they founded the Peter Thang Private High School, in memory of their father. The school is recognized by the Myanmar government's education sector and meets the educational standards necessary for students who do well on exams to apply to college. "The school holds more than 500 K-12 students," Elizabeth says. "A country like Myanmar has a really poor literacy rate and education is a must for every child to live a better life. No matter what background they have, our purpose is to provide them with better education to support their lives."

Elizabeth employs her business skills learned in USI's Romain

College of Business to operate the school on a non-profit basis to enable the orphans from LCH to attend school for free, while the remaining non-orphaned students pay tuition, so quality teachers can be hired to provide quality education, she says.

To help defray the costs of LCH's operation, and to provide local Myanmar women with a livelihood, Elizabeth's parents established Love's Loom House in 2002. Today, 22 women (some of whom are widows) are employed and provided sustainable incomes through the blankets woven on 20 different looms and the hand-made items created at the Loom House. "All the profits from the blankets sales go back to support the orphanages with their daily expenses," Elizabeth says. The blankets are sold locally and online via a nonprofit in Evansville called Binding Thread.

Elizabeth's investment in Myanmar does not stop with her desire to shelter and educate orphaned children. A wife and mother of a young daughter, Elizabeth also owns and operates two cafes—Leaf Cafe and Plants, and Butiria—where she leans into the artistic skills enhanced by her USI minor in graphic design to create a "tiny, cozy location in downtown Yangon," filled with plants and flowers. The cafes employ around 16 people and sell coffee, juice, Burmese or Chinese food, plants and flowers.

Despite her extra-curricular business endeavors, Elizabeth's main mission is education. "For me, the main purpose of providing education is for children and young adults to be able to depend on themselves and seek new adventures through wisdom." ▼



STAY IN TOUCH

Update your information and send photos through USI.edu/alumniupdate or email alumni@usi.edu.



Class notes may be edited for length or clarity. We regret that we may not be able to use all submitted photos, and reserve the right to select which ones are included.

1970s

Michael Buchanan '71, management, spent his career working for the Ford Motor Company, General Foods Corporation and retired from IBM after a quarter of a century of service.

1980s

Robert Brandt '86, art, finished his 32nd year of teaching in the School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame. He has no plans for retirement as he has two brand new knees and a completely reconstructed shoulder. He is the grandfather of two beautiful little girls; Elizabeth June, age 7 months, and Layla, age 6 months.

1 Susanne Wilson '86 M'91, social science (teaching), secondary education, is the Executive Director of Water to Thrive, a nonprofit with a mission to provide clean and safe drinking water to rural villages in east Africa.

Timothy Walker '87, accounting, is Chief Financial Officer of Cincinnati Metro in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Margaret Angela (Couch) Karcher '90, elementary education, is Director of Events at The Stratford Independent Living Community in Carmel, Indiana.

1990s

Laura Holscher '92, sociology, testified before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging on the importance of modernizing the Older Americans Act. She is the Assistant Vice President for Area 13 Agency on Aging and Disability in Vincennes, Indiana.

Michael Galvin '93 M'99, elementary education, is Superintendent of East Gibson School Corporation.

Scott Powell M'93, business administration, is Executive Vice President, Chief Credit Officer at German American Bank in Jasper, Indiana.

Chanda Ramsey '93, art, is the art director for Tucker Publishing Group in Evansville.

Robin (Nesbitt) Price '94, history, is Midwest Region Representative for the Nesbitt/Nisbet Society of North America. She is serving her second term as the Elected Township Trustee for Point Township in Posey County, Indiana.

Christina (Ulrich) Jones '95, communications, English, is the head of the Education Library and an adjunct professor at Indiana University Bloomington in Bloomington, Indiana.

Todd Niemeier '95, biology, was named 2024 Optometrist of the Year by the Indiana Optometric Association.

Elizabeth Dingman '96, art, was awarded the Historic Preservation Recognition Award by the General Thomas Posey Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for archiving records of the chapter, dating back to 1934.

Eric Girten '97, social work, is Vice Chancellor for the Evansville Catholic Diocese.

Michael Good '97, communications, is President of Performance Racing Industry in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Lucas Wilder '98, history, political science, is a criminal defense lawyer in Dayton, Ohio.

Chris Knopf '99, individualized studies, is Launch Operations Technician for Blue Origin in Merritt Island, Florida.

2000s

Nicole (Wehr) Oser '01, art, is Creative Project Manager for Branded by Woods in Huntingburg, Indiana.

Patrick Moore '02, communications, is a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service in Evansville.

Brandi Ponsler '02 M'07, public relations and advertising, public administration, was promoted to National Senior Marketing Manager



Retiring

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Tamara Hunt, Professor Emerita of History • 21.5 years

Marie Opatrny Pease, Associate Professor Emerita of Social Work • 20 years

KINNEY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Mary Doerner, Clinical Assistant Professor Emerita of Nursing • 12 years

POTT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND EDUCATION

Glenn Ballard, Instructor Emeritus in Mathematics • 17 years

Mark Kevin Nelson, Clinical Assistant Professor Emeritus of Engineering • 12 years

ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Peter Cashel Cordo, Professor Emeritus of Economics • 30 years

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

David Bower, Vice President Emeritus for Development and Alumni Engagement and President Emeritus, USI Foundation • 30.5 years

Gary Burgdorf '10, Construction Manager Emeritus, Facility Operations and Planning • 20 years

Nancy Davis, Custodial Worker • 16.5 years

Jeffrey Flener, Senior Grounds Maintenance Worker • 33 years

Mary Hupfer '84 M'94, Associate Vice President Emerita for Finance and Administration • 35.5 years

at Better Health Group in Tampa, Florida.

Deanna Radich M'03, business administration, is Associate Vice President, Lending Compliance Manager, at Northrim Bank in Anchorage, Alaska.

Andrew Aldenderfer '04, public relations and advertising, is Senior Director of Premium Solutions at Sphere Entertainment Group in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jason Lewis '06, economics, finance, was promoted to Staff Sergeant in the Texas Air National Guard with the 136th Maintenance Operations Flight.

Allison (Schmitt) Long '06, marketing, owns On the Spot Utility Resources, LLC, a multi-state utility locating and damage prevention agency in Evansville.

Shyam Seetharaman '06, psychology, is a tenured professor in Psychology at the College of Southern Nevada in Henderson, Nevada.

Natalie Singer '07, theatre arts, is Executive Director of the Reitz Home Museum in Evansville.

Andrew Foster '09, English, journalism, received the Gideon Award from the Indiana Public Defender Council.

David Staples '09, history, is a senior attorney at the Indiana Department of Transportation in Indianapolis, Indiana.

2010s

Andrew Backes '10, elementary education, is Executive Director for the Boys & Girls Club of Evansville in Evansville.

Andrew Bolin '10 M'12, radio and television, communication, achieved tenure and is Associate Professor of Communication Arts at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Daniel King '10, nursing, was elected to the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology Board of Directors.

Allyson Taber Turner '11, elementary education, works as a Reading Support Specialist for the Department of Literacy of Chicago Public Schools in Chicago, Illinois.

JoAnna Knopf '12 M'13, social work, is the Clinical Network Manager for Lucet and owner of ASK Counseling and Consulting in Merritt Island, Florida.

Amy DeVries '13, public relations and advertising, is Development and Communications Coordinator at Pro Bono Indiana, Inc.

Kristen (Schmeisser) King '13, geology, is Senior Known Consumer Campaign Marketing Manager for the Clorox Company.

Lauren Perigo '13 M'24, German studies, mathematics, accountancy, data analytics, is a Director at Bridge Alternatives in Evansville.

Reghan Easterly '14, public relations and advertising, is the owner of Toad Hop Creamery in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Keith Miller '15 M'20, health services, business administration, is Chief Administrative Officer for Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana.

Courtney Dressler '16, health services, is a school counselor for Arlington Public Schools in Arlington, Virginia.

Jessica Swank '16, criminal justice studies, sociology, is a pretrial case manager at Boone County Community Corrections in Lebanon, Indiana.

Jack Wallace '16, English, is Associative Creative Director at GALE. He was on the team that developed the 2024 Super Bowl LVIII campaign, "Michael CeraVe." The campaign won the Super Clio Award for best Super Bowl commercial, the "Social & Influencer" Grand Prix Award at the Cannes Lions Awards and was recently nominated for "Outstanding Commercial" at the 2024 Emmy Awards.

Traci (Smith) Hill '17, communication studies, is the Director of Engagement for the Franklin Chamber of Commerce in Franklin, Indiana.

Nick Bieber '18, computer information systems, was ordained a transitional deacon for the Catholic Diocese of Evansville.

Leslie Beard M'19, accounting, is Chief Executive Officer of WIN Energy REMC in Vincennes, Indiana.

Joshua Dudek '19, biology, completed a Doctorate of Optometry in May 2024 and practices at Pontiac Family Eye Care & Fairbury Vision Center in Pontiac, Illinois.

Steven Grimes '19, English, is a certified pharmacy technician for Walgreens in Knoxville, Tennessee.

2020s

Grace (Harper) Glaser '20, food and nutrition, is a teacher at Little Miracles Learning Campus in Fort Branch, Indiana.

Jennifer Leonhardt '20, biology, is an associate dentist at Maryville Family Dentistry in Louisville, Kentucky.

Nicole Klosowski '21, health services, is a pharmacy technician at Walmart Neighborhood Market in Evansville.

Ivy (Kolb) Lowe '21, biology, is a chiropractor at Lemmata Chiropractic in Hampton, Virginia.



Nicole (Sterling) Fellows '21, environmental science, is Air, Compliance and Environmental Manager for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Tenshi (Nakamura) Dale M'22, healthcare administration, is Managing Director at Huntington Learning Center in Evansville.

Amanda Lindley M'22, business administration, is Business Development Director at Thompson Coburn, LLP, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Emily (Burbank) Pelekai-Librea '22, criminal justice, is a sales associate for Pet Supplies Plus in San Antonio, Texas.

Veronica Portillo '22, health services, communication studies, is the Health & Human Sciences/4-H Youth Educator for Purdue Extension Orange County in Paoli, Indiana.

Caroline Schulteis '22, communication studies, is Events Specialist for the Indiana Fever in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Abby Sink '22, public relations and advertising, is Community and Volunteer Coordinator for the Albion Fellows Bacon Center in Evansville.

Adam Blunt '23, English (teaching), is a 6th grade ELA teacher at Adams Middle School in Prestonsburg, Kentucky.



3



4



5

Joshua Meredith '23, art, journalism, is a music and portrait photographer. He spent the past year following a rock band on a Midwest/East Coast tour. He also followed the rock band Foreigner on three dates of their farewell tour.

Madison Peer '23, English, is a medical scribe for Tri-State Orthopaedic Surgeons in Evansville.

Allison Staples '23, public relations and advertising, is the social media manager for RJL Solutions in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Kylan Wilbourn '23, art, is Production Graphic Designer for Berry Global in Evansville.

Anthony Rawley '24, political science, is Quality Assurance Specialist at National Vet Help, a veteran's disability law firm in Evansville.

Brittney (Ulanowski) Draves '17 M'22, health services, radiologic and imaging sciences, healthcare administration, and Trevor Draves were married July 2023. The couple resides in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Nicole (Sterling) Fellows '21, environmental science, and Matthew Fellows were married October 2023. The couple resides in Vincennes, Indiana.

Sheilah (Skinner) Morgan '22, individualized studies, and Zac Morgan were married April 2024.

Blaine Carpenter '22, mechanical engineering, and Elizabeth Harris '24, art, environmental science, were married May 2024.

Selina (Shires) Reisz '22, individualized studies, and Evan Reisz were married July 2024. The couple resides in Oakland City, Indiana.

elementary education, welcomed Khalyla in June 2024.

Jessica (Bartley) Kipp '15, biology, and Alexander Kipp welcomed Lucas in January 2024.

Rachel Athipposhy '16 M'19, engineering, engineering management, and Zachary Osip M'22, business administration, welcomed Reid in January 2024.

5 Jerry Boyd '17, criminal justice studies, and Ashlyn (Jones) Boyd '19, mathematics (teaching), welcomed Ezra in July 2024.

Daniel Nickens '18, engineering, and Heather (Gregory) Nickens '18, elementary education, welcomed Reece Daniel in July 2024.

Marriages

Lisa Schuttler '04, English, and Mel Henkle, formerly of Evansville, were married August 23, 2024. They will live in Brooklyn, New York.

Andrew Magazine '13, management, and Monica Buckley were married October 2023. The couple resides in West Palm Beach, Florida.

3 Amanda (Dixon) Begle '15, finance, and Aaron Begle were married February 2024. The couple resides in Denver, Colorado.

Tim Luczak '17, public relations and advertising, and Kelly Meyer '20, radiologic and imaging sciences, were married May 2024.

Births

4 Jillian Shade '11 M'14, elementary education, social work, and William Miller welcomed Maxwell Patrick Charles in July 2024.

Barbra Medcoff '13, visual art K-12 (teaching), and Eli Major welcomed Beckett Eli James in March 2024.

Mary (Effinger) Phillips '05 M'12, mathematics (teaching), secondary education, and Lucas Phillips welcomed Wesley Logan in April 2024.

Jared Hermayer '15, computer information systems, and Charity (Ahlfeld) Hermayer '20,

In Memoriam

Nancy (Kitchin) Whitsell '72, elementary education, of Evansville, died August 18, 2024. She was a nontraditional student, attending ISUE after she was married with children.

Mary Jane (Miller) Wilhite '73, psychology, of Tallahassee, Florida, died July 1, 2024. She worked for many years at Silgan Closures America until a significant medical issue led to her early retirement in 2000. Mary never wanted any spotlight aimed toward her and always found a way to support her children, family and friends with caring words, prayers and encouragement. She spent her time enjoying Florida beaches, visiting

with local friends and caring for a colony of cats in need.

Larry Keith Drennan '74, accounting, of Evansville, died July 28, 2024. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving two tours in Vietnam where he received a Purple Heart and Silver Star. Keith later worked at Remax, formerly Sunbeam Plastics, from 1977-2011 as Vice President of Finance and Accounting. A former high school football player, Keith enjoyed sailing, hunting, working out at BFit and spending time with his family.

Lois (Deskins) Kenoyer '74, accounting, of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, died June 26, 2024. She was a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) employed at multiple businesses and organizations, most recently at the University of Southern Indiana and George S. Olive CPAs of Evansville. A community advocate at heart, she frequently provided accounting services, pro bono, to individuals and housing associations.

Daniel Vowels '74, political science, of Evansville, died April 9, 2024. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a retired United States Postal Service manager. Daniel was an avid sports fan, especially of Indiana University basketball and the Chicago Cubs. He was also a huge fan of music.

Byron Courtney '75, elementary education, of Newburgh,

Indiana, died March 22, 2024. He worked at RuVan Plastics, Inc. in manufacturing, and later sales, before retiring in 2013. Byron enjoyed playing and watching softball, golf, bowling and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. He loved animals and played Santa for the pets at the Vanderburgh Humane Society. Byron was a faithful member of Heritage Baptist Church for over 60 years where he served as a Deacon.

Eva (Crumbaker) Michaels '75, elementary education, of Dallas, Texas, died April 4, 2024. At 37 she enrolled in college and graduated from USI the same year her oldest Kay graduated from high school. Eva's love for education and sewing led her to a 22-year teaching career at North High School, in Evansville, Indiana, teaching Industrial Sewing. She felt strongly that Vocational Training opened a lot of doors for students. An active member in several professional organizations, her outstanding contributions to both her profession and her community did not go unnoticed, and she was awarded the Woman of the Year Award in 1977.

Suzanne Schnacke '75 '86, dental assisting, health services, of Newburgh, Indiana, died May 13, 2024. She was a dental assistant for Dr. Lewis Weis and taught dental assisting in Lexington, Kentucky, and at USI. Suzanne was active in the Evansville Dental Assistants Society, the Indiana

State Dental Assistants Association and the National Dental Assistants Association. Suzanne was a member of Salem United Methodist Church where she held numerous leadership positions and was a member of the Disciplineship Sunday School class. She belonged to the Evansville Duplicate Bridge Club.

Tommie Chumbley '78, psychology, of Newburgh, Indiana, died March 9, 2024. He was a loving, stubborn man who touched the lives of many. Tommie was an Air Force Veteran, stationed at Cape Cod, and a special education teacher at Castle High School. He loved watching basketball, football and was a huge Western movie fan; his all-time favorite was Shane.

Phillip Willis '80, communications, of Laguna Beach, California, died February 7, 2024. He was an accomplished artist, a frequent lector and a member of the St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church's choir in Dana Point, California. A high point of the choir was singing in a concert at the Cathedral in Vienna, Austria.

Patricia "Patti" Frayer '81, elementary education, of Evansville, died June 16, 2024. She was an elementary school teacher for over 30 years serving numerous schools in the Evansville area. Patti greatly enjoyed reading, singing, listening to music, completing craft projects, cooking and spending time with friends and family.

Retiring *continued*

Sheila Smith, Help Desk Assistant • 27.5 years

Robert Threet '94 M'19, Systems Manager Emeritus • 24 years

In Memoriam

Charles Barber, Professor Emeritus of Political Science (36 years), retired July 1, 2007, died June 29, 2024.

Patricia Cannon, Administrative Associate, (22 years), retired, died May 12, 2024.

Debra Clark, Circulation Manager Emerita (44 years), retired, died May 13, 2024.

Larry Green, Maintenance Mechanic (10 years), retired, died May 8, 2024.

Linda Harmon, Senior Administrative Assistant (20.5 years), retired, died September 15, 2024.

Sharri Herriott, Administrative Associate in Development (19 years), died September 2, 2024.

Lois Kenoyer '74, Internal Auditor, (4 years), retired, died June 26, 2024.

Timothy Mahoney, Instructor Emeritus of Economic (36 years), retired, died May 28, 2024.

Zane Mitchell, Dean Emeritus of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, and Professor Emeritus of Engineering (14.5 years), retired, died April 27, 2024.

Martin Reed, Associate Professor Emeritus of Radiologic Technology and former Chair of the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences program (21.5 years), retired, died November 6, 2024.

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Patricia (Regener) Campbell '82, health services, of Richardson, Texas, died March 8, 2024. She was a tenured professor and the Executive Director of the Caruth School of Dental Hygiene, the Caruth School of Dental Hygiene Clinic Coordinator and the Graduate Program Director. Patricia will be most remembered for her fierce love of family, listening skills, guidance, firecracker personality, quick wit, sense of humor and most of all for being the pillar of strength not only for her children, but also for anyone's path she crossed.

Donald "Don" Cobb '82, management, of Evansville, died June 21, 2024. He retired after 39 years from the Vanderburgh County

Assessor's Office as Deputy Assessor. Don loved anything pertaining to music - listening, performing, conducting and arranging. He gave private saxophone and clarinet lessons for 32 years and played the saxophone with the Executive Inn Band, the Evansville Symphonic Band, the Hadi Shrine Circus Band and the Red Wick Band.

Jill (Wilson) Robinson '85, elementary education, of Newburgh, Indiana, died June 11, 2024. She worked for the Department of Child Services for 17 years. She was also a staff CASA for Warrick County CASA. Jill was a wonderful wife, mother, sister, friend and mema and will be missed greatly by her family and friends.

Johanna (Wangler) Libbert '87, respiratory therapy, of Richland, Indiana, died July 18, 2024. She worked for Ford Hospital in Owensboro, Kentucky and Jasper Memorial Hospital for many years as a respiratory therapist.

David Moran '89, science (teaching), of Hazelhurst, Wisconsin, died July 6, 2024. He was a starting player for the USI Men's Basketball team. In addition to basketball, he was an outstanding academic student and loved all things science, with an emphasis on Earth and space science. He was a teacher at Lakeland Union High School for over 20 years. He was involved in many school activities, including coaching freshman boys' basketball,

Science Olympiad, ice fishing and trap teams.

Gloria "Gail" (Grassman) Moore '89, history, of Avon Park, Florida, died August 3, 2024. She lived a life full of rich experiences, excelled academically, earning USI's President's Medal. Gail's boundless passion for knowledge sparked an intense love of travel, which saw her traverse the globe. When not traveling, she was building worlds of her own, through both her creative writings as well as designing and tending her beautiful gardens.

Deborah (Garness) Herrmann '91, elementary education, of Evansville, died March 23, 2024. She was a homemaker and a CASA

The Passing of the Pied Piper of Advising

August 6, 1941 – May 28, 2024

Timothy "Tim" Mahoney, Instructor Emeritus of Economics, may no longer be among us, but his 33-year legacy at USI (1987-2020) lives on. From teaching to helping students with coursework, to advising them in his office – Tim devoted himself to helping students. Known as the Pied Piper of Advising, because of the long lines of students waiting outside his door, he took great joy in improving the lives of everyone and developed two courses designed to equip non-business majors with financial understanding: Economics 175 and Finance 101.

Tim's philanthropy was legendary. He played an important role in helping raise \$57.1 million for Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence (2008-2013) and created the Timothy B. Mahoney Business Scholarship in 2003, endowing it with an unrestricted legacy gift to help every area of USI upon

his death so he could continue to help students. Always a problem solver, he wanted the campus to shine as much as the students, and gifted a special machine designed to remove gum from the sidewalks.

Upon retirement, Tim reflected on coming to USI saying, "I made a good decision in 1987. It has been fulfilling to help improve the students' learning experience and to be part of this area's economic development."

Ever humble, his motto in life, "Let's keep it simple," continues to teach and advise.



If you would like to make a gift in memory of Tim, you can do so by scanning the code or at [USI.edu/mahoney](https://www.usi.edu/mahoney).



volunteer. Debbie had a great love for her family and babies and was affectionately known as, "The Baby Whisperer."

Christopher Kessler '91, psychology, of Evansville, died May 25, 2024. He worked as a locomotive engineer for CSX. Chris loved classical music and playing the piano. He cherished the time spent with his grandchildren. Chris was a dedicated scout, earning the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He was a very faith-filled and spiritual person.

Barbara (Perkins) Hendrickson '93, business, of Evansville, died June 13, 2024. She retired from Whirlpool in Human Resources after many years of service. Barbara was a faithful member of Keck Avenue Baptist Church where she was the children's Sunday School teacher. She enjoyed going on long walks in the morning, bowling and playing cards with her friends and family.

John "Chico" LaVanchy '95, social science, of Evansville, died July 29, 2024. He was a U.S. Army veteran in Germany and upon his return to the U.S. he worked as a jailer for the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department, and later became a sheriff's deputy. He retired from the sheriff's department as a Sergeant after 26 years of service. Chico became a Grand Master in Taekwondo in 2024, learning from Great Grand Master Choi.

Ashley Ray '95, psychology, of Newburgh, Indiana, died July 21, 2024. He dedicated over 25 years to the banking industry, most recently serving at Old National Bank, and was an active member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Ashley was known for his vibrant personality and diverse interests. A self-proclaimed Treky, he also had a passion for cooking and music, often spending hours listening to his favorite tunes. His happiest moments were playing guitar and singing with friends, gaming and sharing laughs, showcasing his unique humor.

Mike Whicker '98, English (teaching), of Evansville, died September 29, 2024. He was a teacher and football coach at Reitz High School in Evansville, and the author of over thirty books. Mike was involved in many community projects as a volunteer. He formed and chaired the local committee that successfully brought LST 325 to Evansville, and he served as the LST's first executive director from 2005 to 2008. Mike was a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels and served his community of Evansville as a board director on several local government boards, including the Levee Authority and the Evansville Port Authority.

Thomas "Tom" Wolf '96, psychology, of Mount Carmel, Illinois, died March 2, 2024. He worked in Auto Sales and Marketing and was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Mount Carmel, the Knights of Columbus and the Elks. Tom loved life, enjoyed traveling, boating, water skiing and snow skiing. He enjoyed spending time with family and coaching football and track.

John Vandevener '02, communications, of Evansville, died July 6, 2024. He worked in market and data analytics, and category management for many years. He attended Holy Rosary Catholic Church. John enjoyed volunteering to coach his children's teams in various youth sports. He was an avid collector of many things, ranging from stamps to Hot Wheels to Pokémon cards, a lover of dogs and black coffee (at all hours of the day). John enjoyed Mopar Muscle Cars and causing a ruckus. He was a loyal and generous friend to anyone who needed his help.

Charles "Andy" Woods '04, French studies, of Evansville, died July 22, 2024. He was a retired Sergeant from the Evansville Police Department. During his career, Andy received multiple commendations and completed various specialized trainings,

including graduating from the United States Army Military Police School Counterdrug Investigations Course and several courses through the FBI. He was most proud of his work on the bomb squad and being Bomb Squad Commander. He also worked in organized crime, criminal intelligence and finished his career in Adult Investigations. Andy was active in his church, serving as a deacon, church elder and more.

Jarrold Luigs '06, management, of Evansville, died March 28, 2024. He was a commercial real estate broker and a Senior Advisor at SVN, The Martin Group. Jarrod held two of the highest designations in the commercial and real estate industry: the CCIM Designation and SIOR Designation. Jarrod was known for his high integrity, dependability and creative approach to real estate.

Georgia "Gina" (Johnson) Smith '07, computer information systems, of Evansville, died March 31, 2024. She never knew a stranger, loved being outdoors every chance she could and picnics. Gina always enjoyed spending time with her family every chance she got. She loved family get-togethers and holiday events.

David McGary '22, computer science, of Evansville, died August 25, 2024. He worked as a software engineer for the Evansville City Water and Sewer Utility. David enjoyed weightlifting, hanging out with friends, playing video games and playing guitar. He liked to learn new languages and had recently taken up running. David was intelligent, thoughtful, kind and generous.

Courtney Schoolcraft '22, health services, of Crest Hill, Illinois, died April 3, 2024. She was working on a Master of Nursing degree at Elmhurst College and was engaged to be married. Courtney played catcher on USI's Softball team. She enjoyed crafting and playing with her fur babies, Ginger and Rambo.

Honorary Degrees

USI's Board of Trustees conferred the following honorary doctorates:

James Anderson, the Edward William and Jane Marr Gutgsell Professor Emeritus of Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, received an honorary Doctor of Laws.

Cynthia (Cindy) Brinker, Senior Vice President Emerita for Government and University Relations, received an honorary Doctor of Laws.

M. Edward Jones, Vice Provost Emeritus for Outreach and Engagement, received an honorary Doctor of Laws.

Neal Franklin, USI Foundation Board Director, received an honorary Doctor of Laws.

Mohammed Khayum, Provost Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Economics, received an honorary Doctor of Business degree.

Marjorie Labhart, Instructor Emerita of Mathematics, received an honorary Doctor of Mathematics degree.

Timothy Mahoney, Instructor Emeritus of Economics, received an honorary Doctor of Business degree.

Bridget Muldoon McDaniel, Founding Flutist and Artistic Director of Tales & Scales, received an honorary Doctor of Arts.

MILES MANN, Associate Director of Facility Operations and Planning, is the man when it comes to fixing broken things on campus. A former U.S. Navy pilot and mechanical engineer, who's kept campus going strong for 36 years, he is also a national Sports Official who's officiated games far and wide for 47 years.

How do friends and family describe you?

Fair, Faithful, Thankful.

Do you agree with them?

Yes, and I would hope at the end they'd say, "He was kind and included everyone."

What three things can't you live without?

My dog, my friends and my wife. (Not necessarily in that order.)

What superpower do you employ in your position at USI?

I have a good memory, especially for names and numbers.

What is a common myth about your role at USI?

People think I know what I am doing. It's honestly all smoke and mirrors! The folks who work with me in Facilities are the ones who do it all.

Who was young Miles?

He was a handful. My parents and siblings all wished for me to have a son "just like" me; and it happened.

How do you decompress at the end of the day?

I exercise my dog (Sheba) for an hour and finish my prayers.

Describe a bizarre experience at work.

There was a black swan that had a crush on me. She lived on a nearby lake and would visit me at my home. She would follow me to work and bother lots of people on campus. She made messes all over the place. She'd let me pick her up and someone had to drive us back to her lake. Steve Woodall and my boss at the time (Steve Helfrich) had to drive me and my feathery girlfriend home about a half dozen times because she was aggressive. When others approached her, she would hiss at them and try to hit them with her wings.

What is the most adventurous thing you have done in your life?

I married a beautiful Italian girl. Every day is an adventure with her.





If you were a bicycle, what part would you be?

The reflector on the front of a bicycle so I can see where we are going.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

Unkind people.

What one tool is indispensable to you at USI?

My pocket notebook.

Why did you become an umpire?

I started umpiring when I was 15 so I could earn some spending money. As I got older and my sport playing days were over, I officiated because it was the only way I could keep playing the game. It is the best seat in the arena, but I have to stand the whole time.

What insult have you received that you were proud of?

While umpiring a baseball game live on ESPN in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, a fan yelled, "Hey Miles, if you had another eye that worked, you'd be a cyclops." President Clinton was on hand to watch the game. After the game he was still laughing about it.

What's one lesson your job has taught you that you think everyone should learn at some point in their life?

EVERYONE is important. EVERYONE has something to add to the solution. There is room for EVERYONE on the team. Include EVERYONE – if they don't want to come along, it will be their choice.

Describe yourself as a hashtag.

#CoachMiles

SCREAGLE PRIDE

HANNAH TUNGATE '24, nursing, was one of several nursing students from the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions who participated in a popup clinic this fall, offering free flu vaccine shots to students, faculty and staff. During flu season, and in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended vaccination schedule, a number of these student-staffed mini clinics, aimed to keep us healthy, were held in various locations around campus. This fits well with Kinney College's vision: *Healthy communities for all.*

